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DE RUEHLM #0368 0670909
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
R 080909Z MAR 06
FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 2793
INFO RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 0361

UNCLAS COLOMBO 000368

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E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [PTER](#) [OPDC](#) [UN](#) [CE](#)
SUBJECT: LETTER FROM SECRETARY RICE TO SRI LANKAN FOREIGN
MINISTER ON CCIT

REF: (A) STATE 31153 (B) NOTE L/UN/16(A)II SRI LANKA

MFA

(SBU) The Ambassador reviewed the Secretary's letter on the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT) (Ref A) with Foreign Minister Mangala Samaraweera March 8. Samaraweera said he greatly appreciated the letter. In particular, the Secretary's enunciation of the U.S. position that the convention should not exclude terrorists who claim to act in the name of national liberation movements nor should it label certain acts of state military forces as terrorist acts was "absolutely correct." Samaraweera said his government agreed completely and he expressed appreciation for the round of meetings under way in Washington for Sri Lankan CCIT expert Rohan Perera.
LUNSTEAD